

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TOCY, IC

SUBJECT: R/V ENDEAVOR RESEARCH CRUISE

REF: LONDON 09537 JUNE 10, 1977

1. DEPT. HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND IS PLANNING TO OPERATE ITS RESEARCH VESSEL ENDEAVOR IN AREA ABOUT 125 MILES SOUTHWEST OF ICELAND IN WATER DEPTHS GREATER THAN 700 METERS, OVER THE REYKJANES RIDGE. THE RESEARCH INVOLVES A SEISMIC SURVEY, DREDGING, AND OTHER GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH TO HELP DETERMINE THE HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF OCEANIC RIDGES AND SHALLOW OCEANIC VOLCANIC PLATFORMS; THE RESEARCH WILL BE CONDUCTED DURING JULY AND AUGUST 1978.

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2. URI CONSULTED THE DEPT. TO DETERMINE IF THEY NEEDED GOI CLEARANCE TO CONDUCT THE RESEARCH AND OUR RESPONSE WAS NO, BECAUSE THE U.S. ONLY RECOGNIZES EXTENDED JURISDICTIONS OVER CERTAIN TYPES OF FISHERIES RESEARCH OUT TO 200 MILES AND THE RESEARCH IS BEING CONDUCTED AT WATER DEPTHS FAR DEEPER THAN WHAT IS NORMALLY CLASSIFIED AS CONTINENTAL SHELF. HOWEVER, DEPT. RECALLED REFTTEL,

WHICH INCLUDED GOI REPLY TO UK STATING THAT, "ANY MARINE RESEARCH IN 200 MILE ZONE REQUIRED ITS PERMISSION." THE

DEPT. IS NOT AWARE OF ANY NEW CLAIMS OVER MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH BY GOI BUT WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED BY EMBASSY IF THERE ARE.

3. THE CHIEF SCIENTIST, DR. JEAN-GUY SCHILLING OF URI, IS WILLING TO INVITE GOI SCIENTISTS TO PARTICIPATE ON THE CRUISE AND SHARE THE DATA RESULTS. HE IS ALSO WILLING TO FOREGO THE RESEARCH INSIDE 200 MILES IF THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING AN INCIDENT. ON A PREVIOUS RESEARCH PROGRAM IN ICELAND, DR. SCHILLING REPORTS THAT HE HAD PROBLEMS REGARDING AN EXPIRED CLEARANCE REQUEST AND SOME BAD FEELINGS MAY LINGER.

4. IN SUMMARY IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE US WITH LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GOI CLAIM (REFTEL) AND POSSIBLE GUIDANCE TO IMPLEMENT CRUISE WITHOUT CAUSING PROBLEMS. IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO INFORM GOI OF CRUISE AT THIS TIME IN THE EVENT A DECISION IS MADE TO CONDUCT CRUISE WITHOUT INVITING THEIR PARTICIPATION OR WITHOUT ANNOUNCING ITS OCCURRENCE TO GOI. VANCE

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